GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:208
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2004
GUIDELINES FOR TELEMEDICINE
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recommended guidelines and standards for the practice of Telemedicine in India and has also recommended a framework for an information technology infrastructure for health;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommended guidelines;

(c) whether these recommendations have been put on the web to initiate a public debate; and

(d) if so, the response of the public thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a), (b),(c) and (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.208 FOR 15.12.2004 REGARDING GUIDELINES FOR TELEMEDICINE

(a) and (b): The Department of Infonnation Technology (DIT) constituted a Committee of experts for recommending initiatives to be taken for standardization of digitized infonnation to facilitate implementation of telemedicine systems. A Technical Working Group for Telemedicine Standardization under the auspices of the said committee prepared a document `Recommended Guidelines & Standards for Practice of Telemedicine in India`. This document recommends standards/specifications for Telemedicine systems, Telemedicine software, Communication systems, Security & Privacy issues, Data interchange standards for interoperability among different Telemedicine systems, Clinical devices and Telemedicine Process Guidelines. System requirements for different classes and levels of Telemedicine systems have also been suggested.

The DIT also initiated a study to prepare a document `Proposed Framework for Infonnation technology Infrastructure for Health (ITIH) in India`. This study recommends standards for health infonnation flow among the different stakeholders and covers Data elements, Health Identifiers, Clinical terminology, Minimum data sets, Billing formats for health insurance and Messaging standards. It also addresses to the aspects of Health infonnatics education and Legal framework to support privacy and confidentiality of health data.

(c) and (d): These recommendations have been put on the Department of Infonnation Technology website (http://www.mit.gov.in/telemedicine/home.asp) for wider dissemination. More than 21000 downloads for the document `Recommended Guidelines & Standards for Practice of Telemedicine in India` and more than 4700 downloads for the document `Proposed Framework for Information technology Infrastructure for Health (ITIH) in fudia` have already taken place as per the web site analysis report.